

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 080420 TOSEC 030042
ORIGIN NODS-00

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S E C R E T STATE 080420 TOSEC 030042

EXDIS DISTRIBUTE AS NODIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT CAIRO 09512 ACTION SECSTATE INFO
TEL AVIV MAR 29

QUOTE S E C R E T CAIRO 09512

EXDIS (DISTRIBUTE AS NODIS)

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR EG IS
SUBJECT: LETTER FROM PRIME MINISTER BEGIN TO PRESIDENT
SADAT AND GAMASY/WEIZMAN CONNECTION

REF: (A) TEL AVIV 4209, (B) STATE 79875 (TOSEC 30018),
(C) CAIRO 9484 (NOTAL), (D) CAIRO 9446, (E) STATE 79874
(TOSEC 30019)

1. IN MEETING WITH VP MUBARAK THIS MORNING AT AROUBA
PALACE, I GAVE HIM PRIMIN BEGIN'S LETTER TO PRESIDENT SADAT
AND ASKED THAT HE FORWARD IT TO THE PRESIDENT. IN DOING SO,
I MADE IT CLEAR WE ARE ACTING ONLY AS A POSTMAN AND WERE IN
NO WAY INVOLVED WITH THE FORMULATION OF THE LETTER. MUBARAK

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SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THIS. HE WAS LEAVING FOR THE BARRAGES
TO MEET WITH THE PRESIDENT IMMEDIATELY AFTER OUR MEETING
AND UNDERTOOK TO DELIVER IT AT ONCE.

2. MUBARAK NOTED ISRAELI PUBLIC MEDIA HAD ALREADY BROADCAST
WHAT PURPORT TO BE CONTENTS OF BEGIN LETTER. HE LAUGHINGLY
SAID IT SEEMED A BIT STRANGE THAT ISRAELIS SHOULD DO SO

EVEN BEFORE LETTER DELIVERED TO RECIPIENT UNLESS BEGIN WAS GOING THROUGH THIS EXERCISE MAINLY FOR PROPAGANDA PURPOSES. AFTER HE HAD READ THE BEGIN LETTER, MUBARAK OBSERVED THAT IT CONTAINS NOTHING SUBSTANTIVELY NEW, BUT HE DESCRIBED ITS TONE AS MUCH BETTER THAN THE PREVIOUS BEGIN LETTER. HE ASSUMED THAT THIS WAS A RESULT OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S STRONG TALK WITH BEGIN.

3. MUBARAK AGAIN MENTIONED THAT WEIZMAN WILL BE COMING TOMORROW (REF C). ALTHOUGH LAST EVENING EGYPTIANS WERE CONSIDERING SAYING NOTHING ABOUT TOMORROW'S MEETING, MUBARAK NOTED THAT ISRAELIS HAVE ALREADY ANNOUNCED THAT WEIZMAN IS BEING SENT TO CAIRO. IN CIRCUMSTANCES, GOE WILL PROBABLY ANNOUNCE THE MEETING SOMETIME LATER TODAY OR TOMORROW.

4. REFERRING TO WEIZMAN'S LAST MESSAGE, MUBARAK SAID THAT IN ADDITION TO THE SUGGESTION THAT WEIZMAN AND GAMASY MEET AGAIN, IT INDICATED THAT ISRAEL INTENDS TO WITHDRAW FROM SOUTH LEBANON AND IS COOPERATING WITH UNIFIL. MESSAGE ALSO INDICATED, HOWEVER, THAT ISRAELIS WOULD PREFER LEBANESE ARMED FORCES TO TAKE OVER POLICING AND PEACEKEEPING FUNCTIONS IN SOUTH LEBANON. GAMASY, MUBARAK SAID, HAD RECOMMENDED NO MEETING TAKE PLACE UNTIL ISRAELIS ARE ACTUALLY OUT OF SOUTH LEBANON. SADAT HAD DECIDED THAT, IN LIGHT WEIZMAN'S ASSURANCES THAT ISRAELIS INTEND TO GET OUT OF SOUTH LEBANON, IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO HAVE THE MEETING
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WITHOUT DELAY. FAILURE TO DO SO COULD BE SEIZED UPON BY BEGIN TO SUGGEST GOE DISINTEREST IN RESUMING PEACE TALKS.

5. I TOLD MUBARAK I HAD REPORTED HIS MESSAGE LAST EVENING. I HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED CONVEY PRESIDENT CARTER'S APPRECIATION FOR PRESIDENT SADAT'S OFFER TO PROVIDE A COMPREHENSIVE REPORT OF HIS FORTHCOMING MEETING WITH WEIZMAN. ALTHOUGH AS HE KNEW PRESIDENT CARTER IS CURRENTLY ON A TRIP, THE PRESIDENT WILL BE MOST INTERESTED IN RECEIVING REPORT. I ALSO ASKED THAT HE CONVEY TO SADAT OUR BELIEF THAT THE DECISION TO AGREE TO WEIZMAN VISIT WAS WISE MOVE AND SHOULD HAVE A POSITIVE IMPACT ON ISRAELI GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC ATTITUDES. THIS WOULD BE TO GOE'S ADVANTAGE. MUBARAK SAID HE WOULD CONVEY THESE THOUGHTS TO SADAT AND INDICATED THIS HAD ALSO BEEN IN SADAT'S AND HIS THINKING IN DECIDING TO INVITE WEIZMAN TO COME TO EGYPT TOMORROW. EILTS. UNQUOTE COOPER

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